

a good state. Without knowing the opinion on this precise subject of the esteemed rector, the Rev. Mr. Bowers, the writer has ample personal reasons to know he would support any thing he thought of sound policy and humanity. St. James's cemetery, with Dr. Stebbing's chapel, has been before alluded to.\*

St. Margaret's, Westminster—30,000 inhabitants—appears to the writer about 1½ acres. This was condemned by a Parliamentary committee thirty years ago or upwards as "a place which could not be kept up, affecting the cellars of neighbouring houses" (since pulled down). Rather a stouff fact. Effluvia here, above ground, has been several times mentioned, and felt by the writer. But he has been told by a high and respected authority at the Abbey (not the rector of St. Margaret's) that this was caused by a gas pipe, and wishes that may account for the whole. Parts of this ground may be comparatively favoured—in others the "walls of coffins" and "baskets full of bones" speak otherwise. Illness and sudden death of the gravediggers has been recorded; but it is not singular in that. There is also a small ground in the "Broadway." This, some years back, was painful to examine. A coffin of a poor man was deposited barely eighteen inches from the surface, and there was effluvia from open graves. Another of a "respectable man,"—three feet—was stated to be a good depth "there." This ground has been curtailed by the erection of an enlarged church; it can scarcely, therefore, unless much disused, have practically improved.

St. John's, the remarkable edifice with four cupola towers (25,000), is much better, having a ground, green and neat, of four acres, a short distance from the church.

Alas! for the early decency of the country! "The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" there. Their bodies are sadly moid in an urban cemetery. And if the presence of a neat churchyard aids religious feelings and serves as a "memento mori," the effect is hardly producible by a "rudis indigestaque moles" of dirty earth.

But it will be said, "what will become of the deserted churchyards?" And it is hoped that the answer will be kindly received. "What becomes of the sites of our *Ancient Castles*?" Consecrated by former associations and preserved from rough usage. Foul befall the man who, in advocating any important changes, would desire to smother the purest and holiest emotions of the human heart! *Mammon* must not come in here; he has "ample room and verge enough," and much to spare elsewhere. The *savages* respect the ancient "*Morais*," and the classic heathens shamed many Christians in inviolability of sepulture.

Compensation to the clergy has been before recognized on this subject.

The "*New Cemeteries*" should be introduced with the caveat, that, as things now are, in the absence of all prohibition, they produce not the slightest *safeguard* against the old grounds being filled to bursting. And it is trusted enough has been said to shew, that, even in the absence of any general system, some places must speedily be reformed from *without*, if there be no evidence of disposition *within*.

These very condensed observations, with preceding ones, which might, with little "spinning," have made an average pamphlet, are the fruit of at least *Ten Years'* desultory attention to the subject. The writer has not the improper vanity to think they could supersede more important and official inquiries, but trusts they may furnish useful hints, and sources of utility. As he is sure that scarcely one person has had more ample, impartial, and unsuspected opportunities of observation.—Every place named has been carefully examined, some a great number of times. Whether there has been a leaning to "extenuation," or "setting down in malice," the reader must judge for himself.—If these should further better treatment of the dead, and first of all the poor, with a reflex effect on their treatment whilst living, the result would be satisfactory to many far better, and in other respects more fortunate than the writer. J. D. PARRY.

London, Aug., 1846.

#### MR. FREEBAIRN, THE ENGRAVER.

THIS gentleman, whose fine transcript of the "Shield of Achilles" we mentioned with commendation a few weeks ago, died on the 21st inst., aged 51. The *Morning Post* says, "The intense application of the artist in the execution of this production, is understood, indeed, to have been the more immediate cause of his death. Such was the anxiety evinced by him during the progress of the engraving, that he could not be prevailed upon by his friends to take either the requisite exercise or repose. He taxed his physical ability beyond its natural power of endurance, and he sank, under the ordeal imposed upon himself."

His mother, to whom he was much attached, died only four days before him at the age of 87. They were buried together on the same day in the Highgate Cemetery. The last commission he received was from the Art-Union of London, but his illness prevented the execution of it.

#### WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

A court was held, Friday the 21st, Capt. Bague in the chair. The following were the most important of the proceedings:—

A communication was ordered to be made to the official referees under the Metropolitan Buildings Act, with a view to a modification of that Act, to enable parties to make use of a six-inch pipe glazed inside and out, presented by the surveyor, instead of the drain, under schedule II of the Building Act, which requires that "the inside of main drains must be in transverse section at the least equal to a circular area of at least nine inches in diameter."

Mr. Cumberlege gave notice that at the next court he should move, "That an enlargement of Buckingham Palace being contemplated, the surveyor report upon the King's Scholar pond sewer as it affects the palace, and vice versa; and also generally with a view to consider whether any better line than the present may be adopted."

Ordered, that the surveyor do at once put himself in communication with the architect (Mr. Blore) with respect thereto.

Mr. John White gave notice, that at the next meeting of the court he should move, "That on (a day to be fixed) the commissioners do survey such outlets at the Thames, within the limits of the commission, as can be examined, which lie westward of the Counters Creek sewer, as time and tide will permit, as a step towards the improvement of these discharges, should the same be necessary; also to direct that such alterations be made in the plan of the north shore of the Thames, made by J. Fawcett in 1822, as shall appear proper."

Mr. Cumberlege gave notice, that at the next meeting of the court he should move, "That as the term of Mr. Phillips's appointment (as chief surveyor) will expire 6th September next, he be permanently appointed at a salary to be now determined."

Ordered, that the last-mentioned motion be considered on the 4th of September, at two o'clock.

#### THE ARCHITECTURE OF MEXICO.\*

*The Cathedral.*—The first object that presents itself on entering the cathedral is the altar, near the centre of the building; it is made of highly-wrought and highly-polished silver, and covered with a profusion of ornaments of pure gold. On each side of this altar runs a balustrade, inclosing a space about eight feet wide and eighty or a hundred feet long. The balustrades are about four feet high, and four inches thick in the largest part; the handrail from six to eight inches wide. Upon the top of the handrail, at the distance of six or eight feet apart, are human images, beautifully wrought, and about two feet high. All of these—the balustrade, handrails, and images, are made of a compound of gold, silver, and copper—more valuable than silver. I was told that an offer had been made to take this balustrade, and replace it with another of exactly the same size and workmanship of pure silver, and to give half a million of dollars besides. There is much more of the same balustrade in other parts of the church; I should think, in all of

it, not less than three hundred feet. As you walk through the building, on either side there are different apartments, all filled, from the floor to the ceiling, with paintings, statues, vases, high candlesticks, waiters, and a thousand other articles, made of gold or silver. This, too, is only the every day display of articles of least value; the more costly are stored away in chests and closets. What must it be when all these are brought out, with the immense quantities of precious stones which the church is known to possess? And this is only one of the churches of the city of Mexico, where there are between sixty and eighty others, and some of them possessing little less wealth than the cathedral.

*The Streets.*—The streets cross each other at right angles, dividing the whole city into squares. Each one of these squares is called a street, and has a separate name; a serious inconvenience to a stranger in the city. Instead of designating the street in its whole extent, by one name and numbering the houses, each side of every square has a different name, and names which sound to Protestant ears very much like a violation of the third article of the decalogue—such as the street of Jesus, and the street of the Holy Ghost. A gentleman will tell you that he lives in the Holy Ghost, or that he lives in Jesus; certainly not always true, if taken in the sense in which our preachers use these words. In most of these streets there is a church, which gives a name to the street in which it stands. In many instances these churches and convents (that of San Augustine for example) cover the whole square, not with separate buildings, but one single edifice, with the usual patio or court, an open space in the centre. There is not, I believe, a house in the city without this court, of greater or less dimensions, in proportion to the size of the building. There is only one door on the lower floor, and none at all on the outside of the upper story. The door is very strongly built, and high enough for a coach to pass through; it opens into the patio through which you pass in the steps leading to the upper stories, where alone every body lives except the lowest classes. In all the establishments of the better classes, the basement story is only occupied by the servants, and as lumber rooms, and what struck me as very strange, as stables. I do not suppose that there is such a separate building in the city as a stable. In visiting Count Certuna, for example, whose whole establishment is altogether princely, and others of equal splendour and luxury, I found this court on the ground floor used as a stable, and passed through rows of horses and carriages to make my way to the most spacious halls, filled with fine paintings of the great masters, and furnished throughout in a style altogether gorgeous. In some of the larger private buildings thirty or forty different families reside; each one having rented one or two rooms; all entering at the only outside door in the court, which is the common property of all—and from which each one has an entrance to his own rooms on the ground floor or the gallery above, which runs all around the building.

#### Correspondence.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR THE RELIEF OF AGED AND INFIRM CARPENTERS.

SIR,—The above Society having had an excursion to Brighton, and a benefit at one of the theatres, in aid of its funds, in the year 1844, the committee appointed to carry these into effect supplied several members of the institution with tickets to sell for the society, and which tickets they did sell, but would not hand the proceeds to the society. After repeated application, therefore, the committee came to the determination to recover the same, according to the 25th sect. 56 Geo. 4, and applied by their secretary to the magistrates at Guildhall, when he was told that he had better apply to Mr. Tidd Pratt, as he did consider the last benefit Society Act passed this session gave him the power to settle this business. On the 9th of July he saw Mr. Tidd Pratt's clerk, who told him they had nothing to do with it, and it still remained in the hands of the magistrates to hear and determine the case. The secretary went again to Guildhall, when they granted him summonses against all the parties,

\* See page 391.

† Author of the "*Count of Savers*," "*History of Women and its Abbey*," "*selection of British Ballads*," &c.

\* Mexico and the Mexicans."